

Listing of the Claims:

The listing of the claims below replace all prior versions of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling a user to access to a voicemail service comprising:

a central office switch in communication with a customer premises equipment (CPE), the central office switch comprising:

a supplementary service processor operative to:

receive a sequence of characters from the CPE;

generate a query to a supplementary service database when the sequence of characters is a predetermined n-character messaging sequence, where $n < 7$, to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service and to determine whether a user has access to a voicemail service based on a caller identifier; and

receive a call forwarding number from the supplementary service database if the central office supports the supplementary service and the user had access to the voicemail service;

wherein the central office switch is operative to connect the CPE with the voicemail service in response to receiving the call forwarding number.

~~a supplementary service processor operative to receive a sequence of characters from the CPE, generate a query to a supplementary service database when the sequence of characters is a predetermined n-character messaging sequence where $n < 7$, and receive a call forwarding number from the supplementary service database;~~

~~wherein the central office switch is operative to connect the CPE with a voicemail service in response to the call forwarding number; and~~

~~wherein the supplementary service processor may access the supplementary service database to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service, to determine whether a user has access to the voicemail service based on a caller identifier and to receive the call forwarding number from the~~

~~supplementary service database if the central office switch supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service.~~

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the central office switch is further operative to prevent access to the voicemail service in response to a determination that the user does not have access to the voicemail service.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the central office switch further comprises a router.

4. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the central office switch further comprises an error handler for sending an error message to the CPE in response to a determination that the user does not have access to the voicemail service.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the n-character messaging sequence includes a first '*' star character.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein $n = 3$.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 6, wherein the 3-character messaging sequence includes a first '*' star character followed by a two number sequence.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the n-character messaging sequence comprises the sequence *98.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the supplementary service processor further comprises a routing table for storing a call forwarding number for a user that has access the voicemail service.

10. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the supplementary service database further comprises a redirecting identifier for connecting the user to an error message when the user is temporarily prevented from using the predetermined n-character messaging sequence to access the voicemail service.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising a set of instructions for controlling a user's access to a voicemail service, the set of instructions to direct a computer system to perform acts of:

- (a) receiving an n-character messaging sequence transmitted from a customer premises equipment (CPE), where $n < 7$;
- (b) determining whether a central office switch supports a supplementary service based on the n-character message sequence and a supplementary service database;
- (c) determining whether the user has access to the voicemail service based on a caller identifier and the supplementary service database; and
- (d) connecting the CPE to the voicemail service if the central office switch supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service.

12. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 11, wherein the n-character messaging sequence includes a first '*' star character.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 11, wherein the n-character messaging sequence comprises the sequence *98.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 11, wherein (d) connecting the CPE to the voicemail service if the central office switch supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service comprises using a call forwarding number to connect the CPE to the voicemail service.

15. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 11, further comprising:

(e) preventing access to the voicemail service if the user does not have access to the voicemail service.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium comprising a set of instructions for controlling a user's access to a voicemail service, the set of instructions to direct a computer system to perform acts of:

(a) receiving, at a central office switch, an n-character messaging sequence selected by the user, where $n < 7$;

(b) generating a query to a supplementary service database in response to (a) receiving the message sequence to determine whether the central office switch supports a supplementary service based on whether a service code is present in the n-digit message sequence and to determine whether the user has access to the voicemail service based on a caller identifier;

(c) receiving a call forwarding number if the central office supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service; and

(d) connecting the CPE to the voicemail service using the call forwarding number.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16, further comprising:

(e) preventing access to the voicemail service in response to a determination that the user does not have access to the voicemail service.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16, further comprising:

(e) sending an error message to the CPE in response to a determination that the user is not allowed access to the voicemail service.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16, wherein (b) generating a query to a supplementary service database comprises

transmitting a caller identifier from the central office switch to a the supplementary service database.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 19, wherein ~~(e)~~ receiving a call forwarding number if the central office supports the supplementary service and the user has access to the voicemail service further comprises verifying the query is further generated to determine whether the user identified by the caller identifier subscribes to the voicemail service.